

What is claimed is:

1. A method for acquiring caller-specific information, said method comprising the steps of:
  - receiving a call for completion from a calling party;
  - querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;
  - obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache; and
  - forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said caller-specific information is a calling name of said calling party.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
  - querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:
  - obtaining said caller-specific information from said remote database.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:
  - storing said caller-specific information obtained from said remote database in said local cache.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:
  - defining a limited period of time wherein said caller-specific information obtained from said remote database is to be stored in said local cache.
7. The method of claim 3, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by said local cache.

8. The method of claim 3, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by a terminating switch.
9. An apparatus for acquiring caller-specific information, said apparatus comprising:
  - means for receiving a call for completion from a calling party;
  - means for querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;
  - means for obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache; and
  - means for forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call.
10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said apparatus is a switch.
11. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising means for querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache.
12. An system for acquiring caller-specific information, said system comprising:
  - a local cache; and
  - at least one switch for receiving a call for completion from a calling party, wherein said at least one switch queries said local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party, and wherein said at least one switch obtains said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache and forwards said caller-specific information to complete said call.
13. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps comprising of:
  - receiving a call for completion from a calling party;
  - querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;

obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache; and  
forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein said caller-specific information is a calling name of said calling party.
15. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, further comprising the step of: querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache.
16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising the step of: obtaining said caller-specific information from said remote database.
17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising the step of: storing said caller-specific information obtained from said remote database in said local cache.
18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, further comprising the step of: defining a limited period of time wherein said caller-specific information obtained from said remote database is to be stored in said local cache.
19. The computer-readable medium of claim of claim 15, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by said local cache.
20. The computer-readable medium of claim of claim 15, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by a terminating switch.